

**REMARKS**

At the time of the Office Action dated May 22, 2006, claims 1, 2 and 5-13 were pending in this application. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 5-13. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

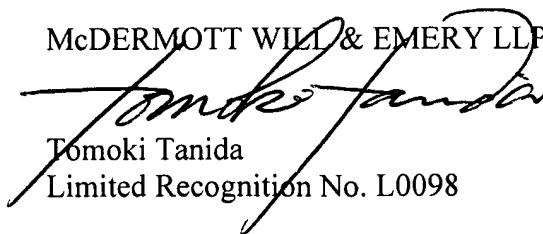
In this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the present Amendment does not generate any new matter or any new issue for that matter. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment is solicited pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Therefore, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Tomoki Tanida  
Limited Recognition No. L0098

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
Phone: 202.756.8000 AJS:TT  
Facsimile: 202.756.8087  
**Date: October 11, 2006**

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